

THE REFUGEES

By A. CONAN DOYLE,
Author of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes"

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Mme. de Montespan had retired to rest, easy in her mind, after receiving the message from her brother. She knew Louis as few others knew him, and she was well aware of that obstinacy in trifles which was one of his characteristics. If he had said that he would be married by the archbishop, then the archbishop it must be. Tonight at least there should be no marriage.

She dressed herself with care in the morning. No news had come to her of the great event of the previous night, although the court already rang with it, for her haughtiness and her bitter tongue had left her without a friend or intimate. She rose, therefore, in the best of spirits.

She was still in her boudoir putting the last touches to her toilet when her page announced to her that the king was waiting in her salon. Mme. de Montespan could hardly believe in such good fortune. She had racked her brain all morning as to how she should win her way to him, and here he was waiting for her.

He had come with every intention of beginning the interview by telling her bluntly of his marriage, but now, as he looked upon her beauty and her love, he felt that it would have been less brutal to strike her down at his feet. Let some one else tell her, then. She would know soon enough. All this ran swiftly through his mind, and she as swiftly read it off in his brown eyes.

"You have something you came to say, and now you have not the heart to say it. God bless the kindly heart which checks the cruel tongue!"

"No, no, madame," said Louis. "I would not be cruel. I cannot forget that my life has been brightened and my court made brilliant during all these years by your wit and your beauty. But times change, madame, and for every reason I think that it is best that we should arrange in the way which we discussed the other day and that you should withdraw yourself from the court."

"Withdraw, sire! For how long?"

"It must be a permanent withdrawal, madame. I need not say that I shall make your retirement a happy one as far as in me lies. Your allowance shall be fixed by yourself. A palace shall be erected for you in whatever part of France you may prefer, and I shall send you all that is twenty miles from an estate also."

"Oh, sire, how can you think that such things as these would compensate me for the loss of your love?" Her heart had turned to lead within her breast. Had he spoken hotly and angrily she might have hoped to turn him as she had done before, but this gentle and yet firm bearing was new to him, and she felt that all her arts were vain against it.

"Madame," said he, "I have thought well over this matter, and it must be as I say. There is no other way at all. I have ordered your brother to have his carriage at the postern at 9 o'clock, for I thought that perhaps you would wish to retire after nightfall."

"To hide my shame from a laughing court! It was thoughtful of you, sire. And yet perhaps this, too, was a duty, since we hear so much of duties nowadays, for who was it but you?"

"I know, madame. I know. I confess it. I have wronged you deeply. Believe me that every atonement which is in my power shall be made. Nay, do not look so angrily at me, I beg. Let our last sight of each other be one which may leave a pleasant memory behind it."

"A pleasant memory!" All the gentleness and humility had fallen from her now, and her voice had the hard ring of contempt and of anger. "A pleasant memory! It may well be pleasant to you, who are released from the woman whom you ruined, who can turn now to another without any pale face to be seen within the salons of your court to remind you of your perfidy. But to me, pining in some lonely country house, spurned by my husband, despised by my family, the scorn and jest of France, far from all which gave a charm to life, far from the man for whose love I have sacrificed everything—this will be a very pleasant memory to me, you may be sure."

The king's eyes had caught the angry gleam which shot from hers, and yet he strove hard to set a curb upon his temper. He felt that it was for him to do so, and yet it did not come kindly to his imperious nature.

"There is nothing to be gained, madame," said he, "by using words which are neither seemly for your tongue nor for my ears. You will do me the justice to confess that where I might command I am now entreating."

"Oh, you show too much consideration, sire! Our relations of twenty years or so can scarce suffice to explain such forbearance from you."

"Your words are bitter, madame. Francois, be reasonable, I implore you. We have both left our youth behind."

"The allusion to my years comes gracefully from your lips."

"Ah, you distort my words. Then I shall say no more. You may not see me again, madame. Is there no question which you would wish to ask me before I go?"

"Good God," she cried, "is this a nan? Has it a heart? Are these the lips which have told me so often that he loved me? Are these the eyes which have looked so fondly into mine? Can you then thrust away a woman whose life has been yours as you put away the St. Germain palace

when a more showy one was ready for you? And this is the end of all those vows, those sweet whispers, those persuasions, those promises—this!"

"Nay, madame, this is painful to both of us."

"Pain! Where is the pain in your face? I see anger in it because I have dared to speak truth. I see joy in it because you feel that your vile task is done."

"My patience can bear no more!" cried the king furiously. "I leave you, madame, and forever!"

But her fury had swept all fear and discretion from her mind. She stepped between the door and him, her face flushed, her eyes blazing, her face thrust a little forward, one small white satin slipper tapping upon the carpet.

"You are in haste, sire? She is waiting for you doubtless. But it was a disappointment last night, was it not, my poor sire? Ah, and for the governance, what a blow! Great heaven, what a blow! No archbishop, no marriage, all the pretty plan gone wrong! Was it not cruel?"

Louis gazed at the beautiful, furious face in bewilderment, and it flashed across his mind that perhaps her grief had turned her brain. What else could be the meaning of this wild talk of the archbishop and the disappointment? It would be unworthy of him to speak harshly to one who was so afflicted. He must soothe her, and, above all, he must get away from her.

"You have had the keeping of a good many of my family jewels," said he. "I beg that you will still retain them as a small sign of my regard."

He had hoped to please her and to calm her, but in an instant she was over at her treasure cupboard hurling double handfuls of precious stones down at his feet. They clinked and rattled, the little pellets of red and yellow and green, rolling, glinting over the floor and rapping up against the oak panels at the base of the walls.

"They will do for the governance if the archbishop comes at last!" she cried.

He was more convinced than ever that she had lost her wits. A thought struck him by which he might appeal to all that was softer and more gentle in her nature. He stepped swiftly to the door, pushed it half open and gave a whispered order. A youth with long golden hair waving down over his black velvet doublet entered the room. It was her youngest son, the Comte de Toulouse.

"I thought that you would wish to bid him farewell," said Louis.

She stood staring as though unable to realize the significance of his words. Then it was borne suddenly in upon her that her children as well as her lover were to be taken from her, that this other woman should see them and speak with them and win their love while she was far away. All that was evil and bitter in the woman flashed suddenly in her until for the instant she was what the king had thought her. If her son was not for her then he should be for none. A jeweled knife lay among her treasures ready to her hand. She caught it up and rushed at the cowering lad.

Louis screamed and ran forward to stop her, but another had been swifter than he. A woman had darted through the open door and had caught the upraised wrist. There was a moment's struggle, two queenly figures swayed and strained, and the knife dropped between their feet. The frightened Louis caught it up, and, seizing his little son by the wrist, he rushed from the apartment. Francois de Montespan staggered back against the ottoman to find herself confronted by the steady eyes and set face of that other Francois, the woman whose presence fell like a shadow at every turn of her life.

"I have saved you, madame, from doing that which you would have been the first to bewail."

"Saved me! It is you who have driven me to this—you, whom I picked up when you were hard pressed for a crust of bread or a cup of sour wine. What had you? You had nothing—nothing except a name which was a laughingstock. And what did I give you? I gave you everything. You know that I gave you everything—money, position, the entrance to the court. You had them all from me. And now you mock me!"

"Madame, I do not mock you. I pity you from the bottom of my heart."

"Pity? Ha, ha! A Mortemart is pitted by the widow Scarron! Your pity may go where your gratitude is, and where your character is. We shall be troubled with it no longer then."

"Your words do not pain me. I have never had an evil thought toward you."

"None toward me? Oh, woman, woman!"

"What have I done, then? The king came to my room to see the children taught. He stayed. He talked. He asked my opinion on this and that. Could I be silent, or could I say other than what I thought?"

"And so, by your own confession, you stole the king's love from me, most virtuous of widows!"

"I had all gratitude and kindly thought for you. You have, as you have so often reminded me, been my benefactress. It was not necessary for you to say it, for I had never for an instant forgotten it."

(To be Continued.)

BREWERY AGENTS LICENSE REDUCED

Out of Town Concerns Come
In On Equal Footing

Board of Aldermen Hold Two Sessions in One Night and Pass Ordinance.

DRUGGISTS WIN THEIR POINT

The board of aldermen met in adjourned session last evening and reduced the license of brewery agents from \$250 to \$150 and druggists' liquor license from \$150 to \$25.

Mayor Yeiser presented a petition which was handed him in the afternoon. It was from agents for breweries protesting against the charging of \$250 per annum for doing business in Paducah. The petition stated that each signer of the petition is a resident of Paducah and that to raise agents for out of town breweries from \$50 to \$250 while the license of the Paducah Brewing association is fixed at \$150 is unfair, and partial; in fact a discrimination against out of town corporations.

Alderman Chamblin stated that the purpose of the committee in fixing the license so was to protect home industries.

Attorney Hal S. Corbett, representing signers of the petition, declared that the measure under consideration would be a bad commercial policy. Attorney Corbett stated that home industry protection was all right, but it did not appear fair and equitable to say one man or corporation may do a same business for \$150 per annum while others are required to pay \$250. He cited a clause in the constitution which stated all taxation must be uniform.

Solicitor James Campbell stated that he could speak only as to the legality of the proposed license tax levy, and that he felt sure the court of appeals intended to give city councils the power to levy taxes in a reasonable uniformity; and that the section of the constitution cited by Attorney Corbett related specifically to ad valorem and not license taxes.

Alderman Miller thought there should be some uniformity.

Alderman Hank thought that the local brewery should be taxed the same as agents for out of town breweries agents, and would not advocate passing the ordinance with such provisions.

The clause pertaining to "brewery agents" was eliminated, and in that clause where "breweries" are taxed, the words "brewery agents" were inserted making the license tax of "breweries" and "brewery agents" the same, \$150. The vote was unanimous.

Ordinance Taken Up.

City Solicitor James Campbell read the ordinance. The only changes made from the original ordinance referred to brewery agents and druggists selling liquor. Such druggists are charged \$25 per annum, the original tax set out being \$150.

The ordinance was given first passage. No other changes were made.

On motion the board adjourned.

Mayor Yeiser read a call for a second meeting, and the aldermen did not leave their seats in the time intervening from adjournment to the second meeting.

A motion that the rule be suspended and the ordinance given second passage was made.

Solicitor Campbell decided that it would require two-thirds of the members elect to suspend the rule, and as Aldermen Bell and Palmer were absent, this could not be done. The solicitor was instructed to read the ordinance and it was given second passage.

On motion the board adjourned.

When a girl shakes hands with a man either she is afraid he will squeeze her fingers or that he won't.

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OPIUM CAMPAIGN STARTED IN CHINA

Empress Dowager Would Put
Stop to Habit.

Embargo on Importation and Registration of Victims of Drug Are Adopted.

HAS STRONG HOLD ON NATION.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Among the many important reforms that have been undertaken by the imperial government of China is the suppression of the opium traffic, and it is a good deal of a task. If the government of the United States should attempt to suppress the liquor habit it would be no more difficult, for, as ex-Secretary Foster said in his recent lecture before the National Geographic Society, nearly every family in China "has felt the clutch of this monster vice and it is known to have impoverished whole communities." It is, however, denied that the drug is largely used by the official class. A prominent mandarin of Peking, speaking from intimate knowledge of the matter, has stated that a very small percentage of high officials in Peking smoke opium, and that of all the viceroys and governors only one is addicted to the habit.

This fact, Mr. Foster says, gives greater hope for the enforcement of the edict of the empress dowager, issued on the 20th of last September, for the gradual suppression of the cultivation of the poppy and the use of opium in ten years. Farmers are forbidden to plant new ground to poppies and the area now used for that purpose must be diminished 10 per cent each year, and cease entirely at the end of the tenth year.

Must Register.

All persons—it is estimated that they number 100,000,000—who use opium are required to register their names with the police and obtain permits which will allow them to purchase a given quantity of the drug at certain periods, which will be noted in the permit, and all dealers are forbidden to give or sell the drug to any one in greater quantity or at more frequent periods than are allowed in the permit. All persons over 60 years of age may continue their use as at present, but all persons under that age will be required to reduce their consumption by 20 per cent yearly and cease to use it entirely at the end of five years. The permits are to be renewed annually, and the allowance indicated upon them will be reduced 20 per cent, in time and in quantity. These permits are sold for fees which increase in the inverse ratio of age. A person of 60 years old pays the minimum fee, a person of 40 pays twice as much as one of 50, and so on, which makes the fee for young men almost prohibitive.

At the end of the five years persons under 65 years of age who continue to use opium will be compelled to wear a distinctive badge which will advertise them publicly as opium fiends.

All government officials, even princes, dukes, viceroys, and generals less than 60 years of age must give up the habit within six months or tender their resignations. All teachers and students must abandon the habit within one year. All officers of the army and navy must abandon the habit at once, and a telegram to the newspapers recently published states that several officers of the old Manchu Banner Corps, the Imperial Guard, who protect the person of the emperor and empress dowager, have already been court-martialed and cashiered for failure to obey this edict.

The Dealers.

Dealers in opium are required to take out licenses and to report all purchases and sales to the police. Their purchases of stock must decrease annually at the rate of 20 per cent, and at the end of five years must cease altogether. The number of licenses issued will decrease in the same proportion, so that the opium shops will be abolished gradually. The sale of pipes, lamps and other smoking appliances must cease within the year. All places of public resort for opium smoking are to be closed and those who are addicted to the habit must practice it at their own homes.

Violations of this law are to be punished by the imprisonment of the offenders and by the confiscation of all their property.

The importation of morphia and other medicinal forms of opium and hypodermic syringes is permitted under most stringent regulations and the sale limited to practicing physicians. The government will establish dispensaries at which medicines to counteract the craving for opium will be furnished to the public free of cost.

The government sacrifices a reve-

DIED SUDDENLY OF HEART DISEASE.

How frequently does a head line similar to the above greet us in the newspapers. The rush, push and strenuousness of the American people has a strong tendency to lead up to valvular and other affections of the heart, attended by irregular action, palpitation, dizziness, smothered sensations and other distressing symptoms.

One of the prominent ingredients of which Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is made are recommended by some of the leading writers on *Materia Medica* for the cure of just such cases. Golden Seal root, for instance, is said by the UNITED STATES DISPENSARY, a standard authority, "to impart tone and increased power to the heart's action." Numerous other leading authorities represent Golden Seal as an unsurpassed tonic for the muscular system in general, and as the heart is almost wholly composed of muscular tissue, it naturally follows that it must be greatly strengthened by this superb general tonic. But probably the most important ingredient of "Golden Medical Discovery" so far as its marvelous cures of valvular and other affections of the heart are concerned, is Stone root, or *Collinsonia Can.* Prof. Wm. F. Felt, author of *Paine's Epitome of Medicine*, says of it:

"I not long since had a patient who was so much oppressed with valvular disease of the heart that his friends were obliged to carry him up stairs. He, however, gradually recovered under the influence of *Collinsonia* (medicinal principle extracted from Stone root) and is now attending to his business. Heretofore physicians knew of no remedy for the removal of so distressing and so dangerous a malady. With them it was all guess-work, and it fearfully warned the afflicted that death was near at hand. *Collinsonia* unquestionably affords relief in such cases, and in most instances effects a cure."

Stone root is also recommended by Drs. Hale and Ellingwood, of Chicago, for valvular and other diseases of the heart. The latter says: "It is a heart tonic of direct and permanent influence."

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sume of about \$22,000,000 a year in the suppression of the vice.

The empress dowager has instructed the foreign office to enter into negotiations with France, Persia, the Netherlands and Great Britain with a view of terminating the importation of the drug. Unfortunately, however, it will be impossible to do anything in that direction without the consent and co-operation of Great Britain.

Tour of All Mexico, Jan. 29, 1907.

A special train will leave St. Louis Tuesday, January 29th at 8:00 p. m., for a tour of all Mexico, running via San Antonio, Laredo, Monterey, City of Mexico, thence to the tropics; returning again via City of Mexico, San Luis Potosi, Tampico, Monterey and St. Louis. The rate for the round trip from Paducah—\$375.00, which includes all ordinary expenses, sleeping car fares, meals on trains and at hotels, carriages and street cars, and all other necessities for modern luxurious travel. Full information will on application be given by the undersigned to any one desiring to make this trip.

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